NOAA's National Ocean Service

ROUNDTABLES

ADVANCING OUR UNDERSTANDING *of the* OCEANS

The purpose of this roundtable is to solicit your views on NOAA's, and particularly NOS', observing and modeling programs and how the anticipated recommendations from the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy might impact these activities. NOS is particularly interested in your views on the three issues and related questions identified below.

Designing Products and Services

A primary goal of coastal and ocean observing systems is to provide decision makers with information and tools to better understand, predict, and manage the marine environment and the impacts of natural and human-induced change. The development of advanced real-time observation systems and modeling capabilities is dramatically enhancing the quality and quantity of data and services. Technological advances will continue to support improved services such as finer resolution, increased accuracy and timeliness, longer lead times for decision making, and more data rich, yet user-friendly, products.

- *What are your requirements for real-time and forecast information?*
- *How will this information improve or benefit decision-making activities?*
- *What is the optimum combination of federal/state and non-federal/state assets needed to address these requirements?*

Roles and Responsibilities for Implementation

Successful implementation of a national ocean observing system (including modeling) requires coordination among federal and state agencies, and nongovernmental, academia, and commercial partners. Discussion of and ultimately agreement on roles and responsibilities will improve the potential for attaining a more fully functional and productive national system.

- *How should federal systems link to efforts based in academia and the private sector?*
- *How should the costs of the system be apportioned or shared?*
- *How do we ensure that the most appropriate organizations are engaged with delivery and use of these new decision support capabilities?*
- *Are there specific roles and responsibilities for each of the partners/sectors?*

Identifying and Addressing Emerging Issues

Ecosystem-based management requires an understanding of the status and trends in ecosystem conditions, the causes and consequences of those trends, and the ability to predict outcomes of potential management actions. Observing systems and models can support national, regional, and local capabilities to measure, understand, analyze, and forecast ecological conditions and changes in coastal and ocean ecosystems. Federal, state, and local governments; academics; industry groups; and nongovernmental organizations also use observing systems to understand current and predict future environmental conditions that may impact their interests, i.e., resource management, national security, marine transportation, and coastal storms.

- *What other emerging issues will observing/modeling systems need to address?*
- *What role do you see for NOAA/NOS in addressing your emerging issues of concern?*
- *How can we partner to maximize our investments and expertise in addressing these issues?*